

PAKISTAN: Communal Clashes. (U)

(U) Thirty people have been killed and 60 wounded in the continuing clashes between rival Muslim sects in the Kurram Agency.

As a result, on 25 July a curfew was imposed in Parachinar, headquarters of the Kurram Agency. The army has taken control of Parachinar. The fighting--reportedly continuing in some locations--has apparently been fiercest between the Shia Muslim Turi Tribe, which is dominant in the Upper Kurram, and the Sunni Muslim Mangal Tribe, which is dominant in the Lower Kurram. Unconfirmed reports state that mortars, rocket launchers, and heavy machineguns are being used in the fighting. In concert with a jirga of local officials, the Kurram Agency Administration is trying to arrange a cease-fire to the sectarian violence.

COMMENT: Communications with Kurram Agency, which is located along the border with Afghanistan, have broken down. Pakistani Government officials confirm that the fighting has taken place and consider the caliber of weaponry being used as inevitable since Kurram, the area with the highest count of Afghan border violations, is already "an extension of the (Afghan) war zone." Sunni-Shia/Mangal-Turi tensions have been increasing since the Sunni Mangals cut off the drinking water supply to Shia tribesmen in Shalozai. The potential for continued and escalating violence is high since the Muslim month of Muharram, 26 August through 24 September--normally a period of heightened Sunni-Shia tensions--is approaching. No US Agency for International Development (AID) employees are now in Kurram, and all US citizens and AID local staff members have been advised to avoid the Kurram Agency for the next week. (DECL OADR)

DIADIN 209-1A as of 1443 EDT 28 Jul 87

Prepared by: